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## News Release

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### *Forum Will Examine Long-Term Care for Veterans*

RICHMOND—The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) and the College of William & Mary's Schroeder Center for Healthcare Policy will hold a forum on long-term care for veterans on July 11, 2007. The forum will be held at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research in Danville and will begin at 7 p.m.

The Danville forum is one of five forums being held statewide to gather public input about long-term care for veterans. During the forum, the Schroeder Center will present a draft report detailing veteran demographics, available health care resources, labor market conditions, and other data. Following the presentation, veterans, their family members, healthcare providers, and the general public will have an opportunity to comment. Input gathered at the meetings will be included in the final report, which is expected to be presented to DVS in August.

DVS operates the Virginia Veterans Care Center in Roanoke and will open a second care center adjacent to Richmond's McGuire VA Medical Center later this year. Care at the facilities includes skilled nursing care, assisted living, and Alzheimer's/dementia care.

DVS contracted with the Schroeder Center in March to conduct a study on all aspects of veterans care provided by state-operated facilities in Virginia. The study looked at veterans by age and where they live in Virginia, military bases, existing nursing and assisted living facilities, hospitals, health care systems, and labor market conditions.

"We also examined the role of institutional versus home and community-based care," said Lou Rossiter, Research Professor and Director of the Schroeder Center for Healthcare Policy. "Advances in medical technology make more options for health care available than we have had in the past. The most important element, though, is to provide the highest quality care possible to Virginia's veterans," added Rossiter.

The draft report is available at [www.virginiaforveterans.com](http://www.virginiaforveterans.com). Readers can provide feedback using the online comment form.

The final report will include recommendations on the types and locations of long-term care facilities needed to serve Virginia's veterans, as well as costs and sources of potential construction funding.

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### **About the Virginia Department of Veterans Services**

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services operates 22 benefit services offices where representatives assist veterans and their family members in filing claims for federal veterans benefits. The agency operates two veterans cemeteries: the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia and the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. A third state veterans cemetery in Dublin is in the initial stages of development. DVS operates the Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC) in Roanoke. The VVCC is a 240-bed long-term care facility offering nursing and domiciliary care for veterans. The 160-bed SitterBarfoot Veterans Care Center is under construction in Richmond and is slated to open in 2007. The agency also certifies that post-secondary educational institutions meet G.I. Bill funding and eligibility requirements, enabling veterans and family members to pursue educational opportunities.